

Establishing the Ulster County Coalition Against Narcotics

Referred to: The Public Health and Social Services Committee (Chairman Lopez and Legislators Allen, Belfiglio, Litts and Provenzano), and The Law Enforcement and Public Safety Committee (Chairman Briggs and Legislators Gregorius, Loughran, Maio, and Ronk)

Legislators Carl Belfiglio and Mary Wawro offer the following:

WHEREAS, heroin and opioid abuse have become an alarming problem across the nation, including within communities across Ulster County; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, there were 89,269 admissions for heroin and prescription opioid abuse treatment in New York State alone, an increase from 63,793 in 2004. During this same time period, New Yorkers ages 18 to 24 had the largest increase in such admissions; and

WHEREAS, nationally, nearly half a million people were reportedly abusing heroin or suffering from heroin dependence in 2012; and

WHEREAS, heroin abuse is a public health crisis in the State of New York, and in Ulster County which represents a frightening share of heroin victims; and

WHEREAS, heroin is a highly addictive narcotic, with users representing a variety of ages, races and other backgrounds. Heroin and opioid addiction impacts families in every corner of Ulster County; and

WHEREAS, fatal overdose, the contraction of Hepatitis C and/or HIV, and addiction and dependence are among the negative side effects that can result from heroin use; and

WHEREAS, in June 2014, Governor Cuomo signed into law a legislative package to combat this epidemic, which includes expansion of opioid overdose training and increased availability to naloxone, a medication which reverses an opioid overdose; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to equip and train law enforcement, EMS and the health community with the tools they need to save lives, and to ensure the proper use of naloxone; and

WHEREAS, Ulster County desires to supply more information about warning signs of heroin and opioid abuse and misuse; now, therefore be it

Resolution No. 371 October 21, 2014

Establishing the Ulster County Coalition Against Narcotics

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Coalition Against Narcotics is hereby created to study ways in which to identify how individuals can be helped, identify other ways to prevent abuse, and identify ways in which to protect the public from opiate drug abuse in Ulster County; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Coalition shall consist of 15 members who shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Legislature; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Coalition members should include elected officials, law enforcement officials, members of the District Attorney's office, members of the mental health community, school officials, members of local fire departments, EMS, medical staff, members of the drug abuse treatment community, concerned members of the general public, and any other organization with knowledge of opiate abuse; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Coalition Against Narcotics shall submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the County Legislature no later than six months after its first meeting for consideration, review, and appropriate action, if necessary; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the members of the Ulster County Coalition Against Narcotics shall serve without compensation other than for actual and necessary expenses with appropriations made therefore, unless otherwise provided by resolution of the County Legislature, pursuant to Section C-16 of the Ulster County Charter and Section A2-11 of the Administrative Code,

and move its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: NOES:

Passed Committee: Public Health and Social Services on _____.

Passed Committee: Law Enforcement and Public Safety on _____.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE